response of the Council is received, the Government will be in a position to take further action in the matter.

पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने हेतु "सार्क" देशों के बीच समझौता

7115. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मई, 1995 के प्रथम सप्ताह में दिल्ली में आयोजित "सार्क" शिखर सम्मेलन में "सार्क" देशों के किन-किन राष्ट्रध्यक्षों ने भाग लिया;

(ख) क्या सार्क देशों के राष्ट्राध्यक्षों के बीच हुई बातचीत के दौरान पर्यटन को बढावा देने के लिए किसी समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए; और

(ग) तत्संबंधी मुख्य-मुख्य बातें क्या हैं?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया): (क) भूटान नरेश महामहिम जिग्मे सिंगे वांग्चुक, बंगलादेश की प्रधानमंत्री बेगम खालिदा जिया, मालदीव के राष्ट्रपति श्री मामून अब्दुल क्यूम, नेपाल के प्रधान मंत्री श्री मनमाहेन अधिकारी, पाकिस्तान के राष्ट्रपति सरदार फारूख अहमद खान लेघारी, श्रीलंका की राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती चन्द्रिका भंडारनायकू के कुमारतुंगा तथा भारत के प्रधानमंत्री श्री पी० वी० नरसिम्हा राव ने दक्षिण एशियाई क्षेत्रीय सहयोग संघ के राज्याध्यक्षों अथवा शासनाध्यक्षों की आठवीं शिखर बैठक में भाग लिया।

(ख) जी नहीं। तथापि इस क्षेत्र में पर्यटन उद्योग के बीच सहयोग संवर्धित करने के उद्देश्य से 1991 में पर्यटन से सम्बन्धित सार्क तकनीकी समिति की स्थापना की गई थी।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद द्वारा विदेशों में भेजे गए व्यक्ति

7116. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद द्वारा किन-किन लोगों को विदेश भेजा गया और किन-किन देशों में भेजा गया तथा इसके उद्देश्य क्या थे; और

(ख) भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद ने इन यात्राओं पर कितनी धनराशि व्यय की?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया): (क) भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद् द्वारा पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान विदेश भेजी गई सांस्कृतिक मंडलियों, प्रतिनिधि मंडलों तथा व्यक्तियों की संगत ब्यौरो सहित सूची अनुपत्र के रूप में संलग्न है। (देखिये परिशिष्ट 173, अनुपत्र सं० 154)

(ख) इस संबंध में हुए व्यय का विवरण भी इस सूची में दिया गया है।

South Asian Development Fund

7117. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAARC meeting held in New Delhi recently agreed to float a South Asian Free Trade Area and to establish a South Asian Development Fund economic and technical development of the region;

(b) what specific gains India could expect by allowing customs and excise relief on 106 items against the 30 odd items by other member countries; and

(c) whether any decision was taken at the above meeting to expand the Visa extention regime for the member countries and what steps are proposed to taken by Government to convince Bangladesh and Pakistan to ratify the convention on terrorism adopted in 1987 at Kathmandu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The SAARC Council of Ministers at their 15th Session, held in New Delhi, on 30th April-1st May, 1995 "welcomed the completion of the first phase of SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) and urged Member States to operationalise it preferably by 8th November 1995. It agreed that the full and timely realisation of the benefits of regional economic cooperation required the implementation of other related measures such as the removal of para-tariff, non-tariff and other trade control barriers within the specific time-frame and eventual progression to the creation of a free trade area in the region."

The Heads of State or Government endorsed the establishment of a three-widow South Asian Development Fund (SADF) with the merger of

SAARC Fund for Regional Projects and the SAARC Regional Fund and a third widow for social development and infrastructure development.

(b) Expanding cooperation in the core economic areas among SAARC Member States and strengthening regional cooperation.

(c) The SAARC Council of Ministers during their 15th Session decided to extend the Visa Exemption Scheme and include the Following categories:—

(i) Ministers of Foreign/External Affairs of Member States.

(ii) Foreign Secretaries/Permanent Secretaries dealing with foreign affairs of Member States;

(iii) SAARC Secretary-General and Directors of the SAARC Secretariat; and

(iv) President of National Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Bangladesh and Pakistan have already ratified the regional convention on Terrorism which came into force on 22nd August, 1988.

Pakistan President's suggestion for peaceful settlement of disputs

7118. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Pakistan, during the recent SAARC Summit suggested bilateral talks between India and Pakistan for a peaceful settlement of the issues between our two countries;

(b) whether the Pakistan delegation were told that their involvement in instigating terrorism in various parts of India was the main hurdle in the normalisation of relations between our two countries;

(c) if so, their rection thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The President of Pakistan, during his recent visit to New Delhi, reiterated Pakistan's stand that until the Kashmir issue is resolved, the tensions in the relations will persist.

Government have conveyed to Pakistan that terrorism is the core issue in J&K. Regrettably, Pakistan is actively sponsoring terrorism and subversion directed against India, including in J&K, in violation of all norms of inter-State conduct and good neighbourly relations.

New Delhi SAARC Summit, 1995

7119. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) which are the Heads of State Government who attended the Eighth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, held recently in New Delhi;

(b) what are the details of discussions held and the outcome of this high level Summit Meeting affecting the lives of nearly 1.2 billion people in South Asia;

(c) whether the South Asia Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) has any chances of Improvement/taking off on schedule indicating the present status of SAPTA particularly after consultations with SAARC heads of State/ Government; and

(d) whether the PM of India held any dialogue with President Farooq Ahmed Leghari of Pakistan as well as with Bangladesh - Premier Begum Khaleda Zia on matter of mutual interest; if so, outcome of such dialogues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) King of Bhutan His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia, President of Maldives Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Man Mohan Adhikari, Preisdent of Pakistan Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, President of Sri Lanka Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaika Kumaratunga and Prime Minister of India Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, attended the Eighth Summit Meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

(b) The outcome of the Eighth SAARC Summit of Heads of State or Government has been very positive and encouraging. The